

Message Text

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47

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 IO-12 SCS-03 SCA-01 /115 W

----- 111114

R 190636 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE AASHDC 4156

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

JCRC NKP THAILAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3737

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: NEWS ARTICLE ON LAOS MIA'S

REF: A) VIENTIANE 3628; B) STATE 094528

1. TAMMY ARBUCKLE'S ARTICLE ON PWS/ MIAS CONTAINS SOME UNFORTUNATE SPECULATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS. WE WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY CERTAIN POINTS IN THE EVENT STORY GENERATES INQUIRIES TO U/ PW BY MIA FAMILIES.

2. ARBUCKLE'S STORY WAS MOTIVATED BY XAT LAO ARTICLE REPORTING PHOUMI VONGVICHIT COMMENTS CONCERNING OUR MAY 10 DEMARCHE TO LPF ON SUBJECT OF MIAS (REF A). SOME INFORMATION CONTAINED IN ARBUCKLE'S REPORT WAS PROVIDED BY EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE WHO WAS AUTHORIZED TO CONFIRM THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH LPF IN THIS REGARD. AS THE DEPT IS AWARE OUR CONTACTS COVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS - NOT JUST SEVERAL WEEKS AS REPORTED.

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3. BALANCE OF ARTICLE WAS APPARENTLY BASED ON INFORMATION ARBUCKLE HAD PUT TOGETHER FROM LOCAL SOURCES AND OBSERVATIONS AND CONTAINS SOME UNFORTUNATE SPECULATIONS AS WELL AS INACCURACIES. THE ESTIMATE OF BETWEEN 50 AND 60 U. S. PRISONERS STILL BEING ALIVE IS ARBUCKLE'S PERSONAL ONE AND SHOULD NOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO ANY U. S. EMBASSY SOURCE. ARBUCKLE'S STATEMENT THAT U. S. OFFICIALS ARE UNWILLING TO SPECULATE ON WHETHER PHOUMI IS CLAIMING ALL MIAS ARE DEAD OR IF HE IS AWAITING A LAO SETTLEMENT BEFORE RELEASING ANY U. S. PRISONERS IS INACCURATE. THE LPF HAS CLEARLY INFORMED US THAT THERE ARE NO U. S. PRISONERS PRESENTLY BEING HELD IN LAOS. MIA WIFE KAREN WEISSENBACK WAS SIMILARLY INFORMED BY SOTH PHETRASY.

4. ARBUCKLE'S STATEMENT THAT U. S. AND DRV OFFICIALS HERE HAVE MET ON SUBJECT OF MIAS IS INACCURATE AND MAY BE CONCLUSION HE DREW FROM CONSULAR/ PW OFFICER'S RECENT CONTACT WITH DRV ON SUBJECT OF SENATOR BROOK'S REQUEST FOR VISA TO TRAVEL TO HANOI.
DEAN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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